

Kentucky Historical Society Executive Committee
Friday, April 15, 2011
Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History
Frankfort, Kentucky Historical Society

Members present: Bill Bartleman, Fred Brashear, J. McCauley Brown, Sheila Mason Burton, Marion Forcht, John Kleber, Ruth Korzenborn, David Lee, Brian Mefford, Patti Mullins, Lowell Reese, Robert Rich, Renee Shaw, Nancy Smith, Sue Speed, Louis Stout

Members absent: Terry Birdwhistell, Dawn Browning, Verna Fairchild, Mike Hammons, Derrick Hord, Karen McDaniel, Mike Mullins, , Nancy O'Malley

Guests present: Marty Pinkston (representing Verna Fairchild); Lindy Casebier, Deputy Secretary, Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet; Dana Cox, Director of KHS Foundation; William Dexter, General Counsel, Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet

Staff present: Scott Alvey, Jody Blankenship, Lisa Cleveland, Keith Jackson, Louise Jones, Trevor Jones, Darrell Meadows, Leslie Miller, Corky Mohedano, Stuart Sanders, Kent Whitworth, Theresa Young

WELCOME

President Robert Rich called the meeting to order in the Brown Forman Room at 1:00 pm. A special welcome was made to new board members Nancy Smith representing the Kentucky Museum and Heritage Alliance; Bill Bartleman, news reporter from Paducah, Ky. and professor at Mid-Continent University; and Dr. David Lee, Dean of Potter College of Arts & Letters at Western Ky. University.

With a motion by Louis Stout and a second from Sue Speed, the minutes of the January 21, 2011 meeting were approved.

President Rich asked each of the staff to introduce themselves and their role at KHS.

Board Committees

Finance Committee – Sheila Mason Burton reported the remaining current fiscal year end budget outlook is positive. The committee discussed a new finance reporting format for future board meetings. A motion was made by Sheila Burton to accept the finance committee's recommendation for approval of the two priority items submitted by KHS to the TAH Cabinet for the 2012-2014 Capital Plan Budget. These items are the Kentucky Military History Museum Renovations and the Compact Shelving & Storage project, #26 and #29 respectively on the Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet priority list of items. The motion was seconded by Mac Brown and passed.

Personnel Committee – John Kleber made a motion on behalf of the Personnel Committee to adopt four recommended revisions to the KHS Classification & Compensation Plan. The revisions are to make the KHS Functional Director title as an officially recognized title for consistency, and to create a career ladder for employees in the KHS Digital Imager I & II, KHS Computer Illustrator I & II, and KHS Preparator I & II positions. The motion was seconded by Sue Speed and passed. Dr. Kleber reported the Personnel Committee discussed the need for annual employee performance evaluations and committee member Louis Stout will assist the HR Coordinator with developing a KHS personnel handbook. He announced newly hired employees include a Public Relations Marketing Specialist and four interims (two gallery attendants, one visitor services associate, and one museum store worker). The volunteer administrator position will soon be filled. Staff member Sarah Milligan has applied to represent KHS at the annual Seminar for Historical Administration three week intensive training session through the Association of State and Local History.

Discussion Items

Debrief on Seasonal Hours – Kent Whitworth reported that the KHS campus was closed to walk-ins during the seasonal hours (Dec. 12, 2010 through Mar 11, 2011), but school groups, researchers, and rentals were accommodated during that time. He referred to a board packet handout “by the numbers” which provided a snapshot of accomplishments made during the seasonal hours, particularly, the emphasis on digital collections cataloging, workshops, microfilm rolls cataloged, etc. It was noted the number of visitors to KHS from winter 2010-2011 was comparable during the same time period in winter 2009-2010.

Ruth Korzenborn commented that the public service hours worked well for groups from the Kentucky Genealogical Society and KY DAR with the advance notice process to use the research library.

In response to a question about local merchants, Lisa Cleveland stated although there were some initial complaints, the seasonal hours were accepted by the Frankfort Tourist Commission, Downtown Frankfort, Inc., and the local public. More advance communication will be made to members, educators, and the general public if seasonal hours are repeated during winter 2011-2012.

Sheila Burton remarked that the annual legislative moments provided during the General Assembly session were popular and reaction to the seasonal hours from legislators was mild.

While the Foundation phonathon overlapped during the seasonal hours, calls were made to over 1,800 individuals with few complaints. Staff and volunteers made personal connections with individuals who wanted to comment on the new hours during the phonathon solicitation.

President Rich stated the staff will continue to evaluate the seasonal hours approach and will make recommendations on ways to achieve the agency’s priority of gaining physical and intellectual control of the collections.

Staff Reports

Darrell Meadows provided an overview of the Division of Research and Interpretation. The R&I team continues to focus on the core work of editing and reviewing of the *Register* and *Kentucky Ancestors* publications. The schedule for the *Register* is to align the “cover” date to actual publication date by fall 2013. Two special issues of the *Register* “Kentucky and the Contested Legacy of Jefferson Davis and “Abraham Lincoln and Kentucky,” have been nominated for two national (AASLH and NCPH) awards. The historical markers program continues as one of the most recognizable and popular KHS programs, serving Kentuckians across the Commonwealth. KHS partnered with University of Kentucky to establish one graduate editorial assistantship with hopes to expand to five in the future. Fundraising and grant requests are currently underway to assist in the documentary “The Civil War Governors of Kentucky” digital documentary edition project.

Scott Alvey gave an update on the new Toyota Hall of Governors project that opens on June 4. The portraits, audio elements, interactives, and images from the KHS collections will highlight the role of the governors in both Kentucky and American history and tell their personal stories.

Dana Cox reported the KHS Foundation annual fund currently stands at \$160,000 of the \$250,000 goal. A direct mail piece to promote the “buy a brick” campaign and a special appeal to area financial institutions is ongoing. A successful 2011 phonathon included 49 volunteers calling over 1,800 individuals. This year’s phonathon provided an opportunity for personal outreach from KHS staff and volunteers to discuss the seasonal hours approach with members and donors and the general public. The Gheens Foundation awarded a \$25,000 grant for the Civil War Governors digital project. Mrs. Cox stated sponsorship packets for the upcoming Boone Day activities are available for \$1,000 and several proposals and grant requests are being pursued for different projects throughout the agency.

Scott Alvey reported that thirty stories from Kentucky’s Civil War historical markers were used for the “legislative moments”, a brief historical lesson delivered electronically to the state legislators each day of the Kentucky General Assembly. The stories, with images, were added to the Kentucky Press Association website where they can be downloaded by newspapers throughout Kentucky. The photo credits to KHS and highlights of the Civil War markers promote and identify the historical marker program.

Old Business

Corky Mohedano reported the dashboard reporting system for monitoring the strategies/outcomes of the strategic plan began in January but is behind schedule. An electronic program to produce the reports on projects, services and resources is being contracted outside the agency. The final program is anticipated to be completed by the July board meeting.

Kent Whitworth provided an update from the January Board meeting on partner organizations. He identified the types of organizations that could benefit KHS and the partner organization with a joint relationship. The types of organizations include: Kentucky Museum & Heritage Alliance (ability to network statewide); University of Kentucky (Libraries and Art & Sciences); Kentucky Dept. of Travel (sister agency); Kentucky Governor Scholars Program; Kentucky Educational Television/Kentucky Genealogical Society.

Following a motion by Bill Bartleman and a second by Ruth Korzenborn, the board approved distinguished service awards to KHS recent retirees Jim Kastner and Debbie Harrod.

New Business

KHS Education team member Mike Deetsch announced that KHS received notice of a 75,000 dollar grant award from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for “Picturing America”. This grant will allow KHS to provide two conferences for 50 teachers each on using art and architecture to teach Kentucky history. He announced Camp Artyfact will have five weekly sessions this summer for children ages 5-13.

Lisa Cleveland reported on the upcoming Derby Day and Boone Day events. This year’s derby activities will be moved from the new Capitol grounds to downtown Frankfort. KHS will offer the popular hat making and stick horse races, along with providing space in the Cralle Day gardens for activities by other state agencies and groups. Coinciding with the Derby activities will be the opening of the Kentucky Experience exhibition in the Keeneland gallery on May 7. On June 4, the Boone Day celebration will unveil the newly renovated Toyota Kentucky Hall of Governors Exhibition. All former living governors will be invited to participate in a panel discussion moderated by Bill Goodman to be aired at a later date on KET called “Through the Eyes of Kentucky Governors”.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Sue Speed and seconded by Brian Mefford to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Young